That is the rule; my question is, is not retirement after 55 compulsory as a result?

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—It is compulsion unless the Diwan thinks otherwise, that his retention is necessary.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—When it is published in the printed Proceedings, is the consideration of giving extensions also considered?

Mr.U. Kandar Menon.—It is not considered at that time.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—When is it considered?

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—It is considered at the time when his period is about to end. According to the rule, it has to be published a few months previous, *i. e.*, in Makaram of the previous year, and the question of extension will be considered only at the time when he is to retire.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—In this printed Proceedings, is the name of the Chief Medical Officer also included, and may I know whether he has attained the age of 55?

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—No, it has not been included. That is quite different. This contemplates only cases where persons were entertained in the service after the age of 55. The Chief Medical Officer's appointment stands on a different footing.

President.—His appointment is under a special agreement.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—He is not to be given extension according to these rules?

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—That is because he has entered the service after his 55th year.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—May I know whether there were requests from officers for extension who have attained the age of 55?

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—Some officers make the request.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Is it at the request of the officers that extension is given?

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—There is no such general rule. Whether he applies for it or not, extension is given if the Diwan thinks it necessary.

President.—In some cases applications are also received

Settlement Proclamation.

411. **Mr. A. B. Salem.**—(1) Will the Government be pleased to state if Mr. C. Achyuta Menon, the Member for Mulakunnattukavu in the last Council, applied to the Diwan for sanction to introduce into the Council a Bill to amend the Settlement Proclamation of 1080;

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(1) if so, will the Government be pleased to state the reason for refusing the sanction;

(2) will the Government be pleased to inform the total acreage of land assigned by Government directly to European Planters in the State;

(3) whether the extent of these lands is twice the size of the Taluk of Cranganur;

(4) whether these lands pay assessment under special terms and why these lands are not brought within the purview of the Settlement Proclamation;

(5) whether they stand on a footing of permanently settled assessments not liable to revision as other lands in the possession of the people of Cochin assessed under the Settlement Proclamation of 1080;

(6) will the Government be pleased to state the total land revenue they derived from the lands in the possession of European Planters in Cochin on lands assigned to them?

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—(1) Sanction was not accorded to introduce the Bill as among other reasons it was found to be premature and inexpedient.

(2) No land has been *permanently assigned* to European Planters in the State. An extent of 16,996 acres and 93 cents of forest lands is, however, held on lease by them.

(3) No. It is only about one and a half times. The extent of Cranganur Taluk is 11,209·21 acres.

(4) They do not pay any assessment but they pay rent under special terms. They are not permanently settled lands and hence they were not brought within the purview of the Settlement Proclamation.

(5) No.

(6) The total rent derived is Rs. 26,059—4—8. There is no case of land revenue being collected here.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—May I know whether it is a perpetual lease or a lease for a number of years?

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—I do not think it is a perpetual lease. I did not look into the lease deeds. But I think they are not perpetual, as they are only leased and the rent is fixed.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—It may be no land has been permanently assigned but the rent is fixed. So I want to know whether it is permanently held.

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—They are not permanently held.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Then is it 999 years' lease, 99 years' lease, 50 years' lease or 25 years' lease?

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Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—For that I want notice. It is not a permanent lease; it is only for a number of years.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—But then it may be a 999 years' lease, 99 years' lease or 50 years' lease.

Mr. K. Govinda Menon.—As long as they pay the annual rent regularly, they need not vacate.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—As the Conservator says, as long as they pay the rent, they have the right of permanent occupancy. So, I ask whether the lands are permanently leased to them.

President.—I do not think so.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—In the case of *jenmom* lands, also, if the revenue is not paid, Government has the right to sell the property for the arrears and even resume possession.

President.—But this is not so. The *jenmom* lands are perpetually held.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Here also it is the same case. The Conservator says that, if they do not pay the quit rent, then Government can resume and so, so long as they pay the rent, they can hold it.

President.—A permanent lease would not lapse.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—But there also, if the revenue is in arrears, they could recover the revenue by selling the land and keeping in possession such land. So to speak, no land is being permanently assigned—has been leased. May I know whether this is a permanent lease, perpetual lease, 999 years' lease, 99 years' lease or 50 years' lease?

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—I want notice.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Is the rent subject to revision? The Conservator said that, as long as they pay the rent, they could hold on. If that is so, I ask what is the difference between a permanent holding and this except in the amount of rent?

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—I beg to submit, Sir, that it is not a supplementary question; the Member is asking the opinion of the Government.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—My question is 'Is there any difference between a permanent lease and this lease?' I do not ask a question of opinion. My question is to elucidate certain information. There is this fact here presented; so long as they pay the quit rent, they are entitled to hold on, irrespective of the number of years. Do the Government make any difference between a permanent lease and this lease?

President.—This lease is subject to certain conditions but the other is not.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Is the rent subject to revision?

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Mr. K. Govinda Menon.—No, so far as the present lease is concerned.

President.—The condition is that the rent should be regularly paid.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—So then there is no such condition. There is only then the liability to pay tax. That is true in other cases also. Is the rent subject to revision at any time during the period of lease?

Mr. K. Govinda Menon.—Not so far at present; it is not subject to any revision.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—At no time during the period of the lease it is subject to revision; am I to understand so?

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—The rate of rent is permanent; it is not subject to revision.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Then am I to hold that the rent on their holdings now is not subject to revision?

President.—That is to say, what the Diwan Peishkar wants to say is, if there is no mistake in the extent of the holdings, the rate of rent per acre or any given area is not subject to revision. If, on a re-survey, it is found that the extent of the holdings is larger, then they will have to pay rent on the excess area also in addition to what they have been paying.

Investment in the Potteries.

412. Mr. A. B. Salem.—(a) Will the Government be pleased to state the amount of money that stand invested in the Potteries Scheme at Chalakkudi;

(b) whether any one was appointed or deputed to investigate its possibilities and report;

(c) if so, the name of the person so deputed, his qualifications and the amount of money spent upon the deputation;

(d) will the Government be pleased to place his report on the Table of the House?

Mr. V.K. Aravindaksha Menon.—(a) Rs. 4,25,320—4—0 up to the end of 1103.

(b) Yes.

(c) Messrs. Thampan and Kuehnel. They have long experience in the manufacture of clay products. No separate accounts have been kept for the money spent for original investigation.

(d) Copies of the reports are placed on the Council Table.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—The answer to sub-division (c) is 'Messrs. Thampan and Kuehnel.' I ask whether they were the only employees as far as the published records show? With regard to my question (b), the answer given is 'Yes'. May I know whether it was not investigated by one Mr. Balappa or so?

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